

REMARKS

Claims 15-29 and 43-56 are pending in the present application. Claims 15-22, 25-29, 43-49 and 52-56 have been rejected. Claims 15, 22, and 43 have been canceled. Claims 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25-29, 44, 45, 48-50, and 51-56 have been amended. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's concerns. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the statement of allowable subject matter of Claims 23, 24, 50, and 51. The Applicant has amended Claims 23 and 50 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to address the Examiner's objections, with the following exceptions:

The Applicant disagrees with the Examiner and has elected not to delete the paragraphs or lines (page 11, last paragraph; page 12 lines 10-15; and page 13, first paragraph) that the Examiner considers to be repetitive.

The Applicant disagrees with the Examiner concerning the changes on pages 13 and 14 for changing reference number "130" to "120". The Applicant submitted formal drawings on August 21, 2001. The drawings clearly show that the railing is reference number "130" which is properly stated in the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's objections be withdrawn.

The Claims

Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's objections. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection

Claims 15-16, 20-22, 25-28, 43-44, 48-49, and 52-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Reeves et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,084). Applicant has canceled Claim 15 and amended the dependent claims to now depend from allowable Claim 23. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Reeves et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,084) in view of Casteel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,174,396). Applicant has canceled Claim 15 and amended the dependent claims to now depend from allowable Claim 23. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Reeves et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,084) in view of Dupont and Cutting Edge Inc. websites. Applicant has canceled Claim 15 and amended the dependent claims to now depend from allowable Claim 23. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

References of Interest

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is believed to comprise general information that does not render the present application anticipated or obvious.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

Dated: March 4, 2004



Nicole E. Coppes-Gathy
Reg. No: 46,640

Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
P.O. Box 6149
Stateline, NV 89449
Tel. (775) 586-9500
Fax (775) 586-9550